

United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service

Press Release



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U.S. Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2007, totaled 104.8 million head, slightly below the 105.2 million on July 1, 2006 but 1 percent above the 104.2 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were down slightly from the 42.6 million on July 1, 2006 but unchanged from two years ago. Beef cows, at 33.4 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2006 and July 1, 2005. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were unchanged from July 1, 2006 but up 1 percent from two years ago. All heifers, 500 pounds and over, at 16.6 million, were unchanged. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.7 million head, were down 6 percent and milk replacement heifers, at 3.9 million head, were up 3 percent. Steers weighing over 500 pounds totaled 14.9 million, down 1 percent. The 2007 calf crop is expected to be 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2005 and 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006 and 2005.